

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/212,434

Applicant(s)

KANEDA, KITAHIRO

Examiner

Mehrdad Dastouri

Art Unit

2623

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to correspondence filed on October 7, 2004.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 16-24, 37-40, 42, 44-47, 49, 79 and 80.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 16 December 1998 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____. |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ | 7. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____. |

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. Frank L. Cire (Registration No. 42,419) on December 4, 2004, and December 8, 2004.

2. The application has been amended as follows:

In Line 12 of Claim 16, "the image [[data]]" has been replaced by "image data corresponding to unrecognized areas".

In Line 12 of Claim 20, "the image [[data]]" has been replaced by "image data corresponding to unrecognized areas".

In Line 13 of Claim 20, "the image [[data]]" has been replaced by "image data corresponding to unrecognized areas".

In Line 12 of Claim 79, "the image [[data]]" has been replaced by "image data corresponding to unrecognized areas".

Claim 80 has been amended as follows:

80. (Currently amended) A central control apparatus that performs communication with a terminal,

wherein said terminal comprises said central control apparatus comprising:

image obtaining means for obtaining an image of a manuscript by scanning the manuscript, wherein an image of a manuscript ID is included in the obtained image of the manuscript;

manuscript ID recognition means for recognizing the image of the manuscript ID included in the image of the manuscript and obtaining the manuscript ID as the recognition result of the image of the manuscript ID, the manuscript ID indicating information for an identification of the manuscript;

first transmitting means for transmitting the manuscript ID obtained by said manuscript ID recognition means to said central control apparatus, wherein said first transmitting means does not transmit image data corresponding to unrecognized areas of the manuscript to said central control apparatus;

first receiving means for receiving a control signal from said central control apparatus, the control signal including an information of character recognizing condition of the manuscript determined by the central control apparatus based on the manuscript ID transmitted by said first transmitting means, the information of character recognizing condition including positional information of recognition areas of the image of the manuscript; and

character recognition means for performing character recognition of character images included in the image of the manuscript in accordance with the information of character recognizing condition included with the control signal, and

wherein said central control apparatus comprising:

receiving means for receiving a manuscript ID transmitted from the terminal, wherein the manuscript ID is obtained by the terminal by recognizing a manuscript ID image included in a manuscript image obtained by scanning a manuscript, and wherein the manuscript ID is transmitted from the terminal without ~~[[the]]~~ image data corresponding to unrecognized areas of the manuscript;

obtaining means for obtaining the information of character recognizing condition based on the received manuscript ID, the information of character recognizing condition including positional information of recognition areas of the manuscript; and

transmitting means for transmitting a control signal including the obtained information of the character recognizing to the terminal,

wherein the terminal performs character recognition of character images included in the image of the manuscript in accordance with the information of character recognizing condition included in the transmitted control signal.

Response to Amendment

3. Applicant's amendment filed July 27, 2004, has been entered and made of record.

Applicant's arguments, see Pages 14 (last paragraph) to Page 17, filed July 27, 2004, with respect to Claims 16-24, 37-40, 42-47, 49, 79 and 80 have been fully considered and are persuasive. The rejection of Claims 16-24, 37-40, 42-47, 49, 79 and 80 has been withdrawn.

Allowable Subject Matter

4. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The instant invention recites a communication system comprising a terminal and a central control unit to perform document processing using character recognition of a manuscript image. The manuscript image obtained by scanning includes an image of a manuscript ID indicating identification information of the scanned manuscript. The manuscript ID image is transmitted from a terminal to a central without image data corresponding to unrecognized areas of the manuscript image. The central control unit obtains information of character recognizing condition based on the received manuscript ID and transmits the obtained information of character recognizing condition back to the terminal. The character recognizing condition information includes positional information recognition areas of the manuscript image. The terminal then performs character recognition of the manuscript image in accordance with the information of character recognizing condition.

The features identified, in combination, are neither discussed nor suggested by the prior arts of record.

5. Claims 16-24, 37-40, 42, 44-47, 49, 79 and 80 are allowed.
6. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Contact Information

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Mehrdad Dastouri whose telephone number is (703)

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305-2438. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday to Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m..

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Amelia Au can be reached on (703) 308-6604. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Mehrdad Dastouri
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2623
December 8, 2004

MEHRDAD DASTOURI
PRIMARY EXAMINER

Mehrdad Dastouri